

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 207429 TOSEC 220020

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ALATHERTON

APPROVED BY: NEA ALFRED L ATHERTON

S/S MR SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207429 TOSEC 220020

NODIS

CHEROKEE

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TEL AVIV DTD 20 AUG 1976 QTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5715

NODIS CHEROKEE

STRICTLY EYES ONLY FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM TOON

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET NOTE ON ISRAEL AND LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 5681

1. IN CONSIDERING OUR POSTURE IN LIGHT SOVIET REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ISRAELI NAVAL ACTIVITIES ALONG LEBANESE COAST, I THINK THE SECY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE EXTENDED INVITATION TO ADMIRAL TELEM, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ISRAELI NAVY, TO CALL ON SIXTH FLEET COMMANDER AND OBSERVE UNDERWAY FLEET EXERCISES. TELEM PLANS TO DEPART TEL AVIV FOR GAETA SUNDAY MORNING.

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WHILE NO PUBLICITY IS PLANNED, OBVIOUSLY THIS SORT OF VISIT WILL

NOT GO UNNOTICED, AND I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD DEFER INVITATION TO MORE PROPITIOUS TIME. AT VERY LEAST IT WOULD BE UNCHARACTERISTIC OF SOVIETS TO AVOID EXPLOITATION VISIT AS PROOF THAT NOT ONLY DE WE CONDONE ALLEGED ISRAELI BLOCKADE BUT WE ARE IN ACTIVE COLLUSION WITH ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES.

2. MOVE MAY HAVE ANCILLARY USEFULNESS IN CONTEXT POTENTIAL DUST UP IN THE SUEZ OVER AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS. ISRAELIS APPEAR DETERMINED FLEX THEIR NAVAL MUSCLE AND DESPITE OUR URGINGS INTERFERE WITH AMOCO OPERATIONS EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE. CANCELLATION OF TELEM VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE SEEN BY ISRAELIS AS EVIDENCE OUR DISPLEASURE OVER THEIR INTRANSIGENCE, AND WE WOULD DO NOTHING HERE TO DISABUSE THEM OF THIS IMPRESSION.

3. IN VIEW OF SUNDAY MORNING DEPARTURE ADMIRAL TELEM, WE SHOULD ACT TODAY. IF DECISION IS TO POSTPONE VISIT, I ASSUME DEPT. WILL INFORM SIXTH FLEET AS WELL AS TEL AVIV.
TOON UNQTE
ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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